

## REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to Figure 6 of the drawings, because "42" does not point to the bottom of the second finger. The Applicant is enclosing a replacement sheet with a corrected Figure 6.

The Examiner objected to claim 5, because line 1 contains a plural recitation of claims. The Applicant has corrected claim 5.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-15, and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a pin that extends between a space between the first and second fingers to limit movement of a fiber optic cable. Claim 20 recites a method wherein a fiber optic cable makes contact with a pin that extends between the first and second fingers. Pins 110 of Anderson do not extend between the first and second fingers. Additionally, the pins 110 do not limit movement of the fiber optic cable between the fingers. For these reasons Anderson does not anticipate claims 1-7 and 20-22.

Claims 8, 14, and 23 have been amended to recite a bottom surface located at an outermost distal location of a first finger. The claims also recite means such as a groove that causes a portion of a fiber optic cable to extend below the bottom surface. The Examiner states that any surface of Anderson could be a bottom surface. The claims have been amended to further define the bottom surface as being at an outermost location of the first finger. The drawings of Anderson do not show a fiber optic cable extending beyond the outermost location of the fingers. Additionally, the text does not describe grabbing a cable so that a portion extends beyond the outermost location of the fingers. For these reasons the applicant submits that Anderson does not anticipate claims 8-19, 23 and 24.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hattori. As stated on column 7, lines 62-64 of Hattori, item 12 is a stripper, not a

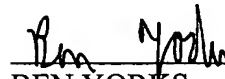
gripper. The holder 2 of Hattori is the gripper, not stripper 12. The pin of the stripper in Hattori does not limit the movement of the fiber. It would appear that the fiber would first contact the base of the fingers. Additionally, the pin does not extend across a space between the fingers as recited in claims 1-7 and 20-22. Hattori also does not contain means such as a groove that ensures that a portion of the fiber optic cable extends beyond a bottom surface of the fingers. The stripper 12 of Hattori does not establish the relative position of the fiber optic cable and the stripper fingers. The location of the fiber is established by the holder 2. Hattori does not disclose every limitation of recited in claims 1, 3, 14 and 16. Consequently, Hattori does not anticipate these claims.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Hattori. The Applicant submits that this claim is allowable for being dependent on an allowable independent claim.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-24 at an early date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

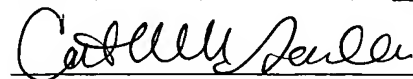
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via U.S. Postal Service, First Class Mail to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 15, 2004.

 9-15-2004  
Catherine M. Sanders Date